AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26 (cancelled).

27 (new). A method for coating a device for implantation or insertion in the human or animal body or for a medical or diagnostic interventional procedure, wherein the coating is carried out by electrostatic powder deposition, the powder material being applied from a source positioned at a spacing from the device in the range of from 0.3mm to 3cm, and providing relative movement between the device and the source of powder material during deposition, and wherein subsequently the powder is treated to form a coherent coating layer.

28 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the device is moved during application of the powder material.

29 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the device is of generally cylindrical shape and the source of powder material is positioned at a radial spacing in the range of from 0.3mm to 3cm from the device, and the device is rotated relative to the source of powder material.

30 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the powder material is electrostatically charged and an electric field is present in the region of the device to cause the powder material to be deposited on the device.

31 (new). A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the electric field is provided by a bias voltage that is a steady DC voltage.

32 (new). A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein an AC voltage which is substantially higher than the DC voltage is superimposed on the bias voltage.

33 (new). A method as claimed in claim 30, which comprises application of a DC bias voltage and an AC voltage.

34 (new). A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the alternating voltage has a peak to peak value more than twice the peak value of the DC bias voltage.

35 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, including the steps of

applying a bias voltage to generate an electric field between a source of the powder material and the device;

applying the electrostatically charged powder material to the device, the powder material being driven onto the device by the interaction of the electric field with the charged powder material and the presence of the charged powder material on the device serving to build up an electric charge on the device and thereby reduce the

electric field generated by the bias voltage between the source of powder material and the device, and

continuing the application of the electrostatically charged powder material to the device until the electric field between the source of powder material and the device is so small that the driving of the powder material by the electric field onto the substrate is substantially terminated.

36 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the powder material is spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.3mm to 2cm.

37 (new). A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the powder material is less than 10mm from the device.

38 (new). A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the powder material is up to 5mm from the device.

39 (new). A method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the powder material is a distance of 0.5mm to 5mm from the device.

40 (new). A method for the coating of a surgical or other medical device, the device being of generally cylindrical shape, wherein the coating is carried out by a method comprising the following steps:

i) providing a source of electrostatically charged powder material and an electric field in the region of the device to cause the powder material to be deposited on the device, the source of powder material being positioned at a radial spacing in the range of from 0.3mm to 3cm from the device;

ii) rotating the device as powder is applied; and

iii) subsequently treating the powder to form a coherent coating layer.

41 (new). A method as claimed in claim 40, which comprises application of a DC bias voltage and an AC voltage.

42 (new). A method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the alternating voltage has a peak to peak value more than twice the peak value of the DC bias voltage.

43 (new). A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the powder material is spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.3mm to 2cm.

44 (new). A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the powder material is less than 10mm from the device.

45 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the device is a stent, heart valve, pacemaker, catheter, catheter sheath or introducer, drug infusion catheter or guidewide, orthopaedic or dental implant, artificial hip or other joint, artificial organ, neurostimulator, cardiovert defribrillator, dialysis tubing or tubing for heart-lung machine.

46 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the device is a stent, heart valve or artificial hip or other joint.

47 (new). A method for the coating of a stent, wherein the coating is carried out by electrostatic powder deposition, the powder material being applied from a source positioned at a spacing from the stent device in the range of from 0.3mm to 3cm, and the stent being rotated relative to the source of powder material, and wherein subsequently the powder is heated to form a coherent coating layer.

48 (new). A method as claimed in claim 47, which comprises application of a DC bias voltage and an AC voltage.

49 (new). A method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the alternating voltage has a peak to peak value more than twice the peak value of the DC bias voltage.

50 (new). A method as clamed in claim 47, wherein the powder material is spaced from the device by a distance in the range of 0.3mm to 2cm.

51 (new). A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the powder material is less than 10mm from the device.

52 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the powder material comprises a polylactide, polycaprolactone, polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(acrylic acid), polyurethane or poly(butyl methacrylate-co-methyl methacrylate).

53 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the device is for delivery of an active material or diagnostic agent and that active material or diagnostic agent is contained in the coating.

54 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coating includes a source of radioactivity.

55 (new). A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coating includes an agent for the treatment or prevention of restenosis, or an anticoagulant, an anti-thrombogenic agent, an anti-microbial agent, an anti-neoplastic agent, an antiplatelet agent, an immunosuppressant agent, an antimetabolite, an anti-proliferative agent, or an anti-inflammatory agent.